

## THE NATION'S CRIME.

Prof. Booker T. Washington's Sweeping Comment on the Buffalo Tragedy—The Record of Lynchings—Its Growth.

Tuskegee, Ala., Sept. 23, 1901.

Editor The Advertiser:

"Mob rule is destructive of all government." These are the words just spoken by the Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson.

In the midst of the season of deepest grief, when the heart of a nation is shedding tears of sorrow as perhaps it has never before done for an individual, is it not a fitting time to stop to take our bearings that we may know whither we are drifting? With united voice we condemn the individual who was the direct cause of removing, the perhaps, most tenderly and universally loved President the nation has ever had. But in all sincerity, I want to ask, is Czigosz alone guilty? Has not the entire nation had a part in this greatest crime of the century? What is anarchy but a defiance of law and has not the



PROF. BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.

nation reaped what it has been sowing? According to a careful record kept by The Chicago Tribune, 2,516 persons have been lynched in the United States during the past sixteen years, and every State in the Union except five, has had its lynching. A conservative estimate would place the number of persons engaged in these lynchings at about fifty per individual lynched, so that there are or have been engaged in this anarchy of lynching nearly 125,000 persons to say nothing of the many organized bands of technically organized anarchists. Those composing these mobs have defied Governors, Judges, Sheriffs and helped create a disregard for law and authority that, in my mind, has helped to lay the foundation for the great disgrace and disaster that has overtaken the country.

We cannot sow disorder and reap order. We cannot sow death and reap life.

To check the present tendency, it seems to me there are two duties that face us: first, for all classes to unite in an earnest effort to create such a public sentiment as will make crime disappear and especially is it needful that we see that there is no idle, dissolute, purposeless class permitted in our midst with which and among whom crime usually originates.

Second, for all to unite in a brave effort to bring criminals to justice and where a supposed criminal is found, no matter what the charge against him is, to see that he has a fair, patient, legal trial. One criminal put to death through the majesty of the law does more, to my mind, to prevent crime, than ten put to death by the hand of lynching anarchists.

At the present time when governors, judges, the pulpit and the press in all parts of the country are condemning lynching and anarchy as never before,

is the time to begin the reform.

When the practice of lynching was begun, it was said that lynching would be inflicted, but for one crime, but the actual facts show that so true is it that lawlessness breeds lawlessness, that more people are now lynched each year for other supposed crimes than for the crime for which it was begun.

Let us heed the words of our departed and beloved Chief, as he lay upon his dying bed, referring to the murderer: "I hope he will be treated with fairness." If William McKinley, as he was offering up his life in behalf of the nation, could be brave enough, thoughtful and patriotic enough to request that his assailant should be fairly and honestly tried and punished, surely we can afford to heed the lesson. The best way, it seems to me, to show our love and reference for William McKinley is to reach the conclusion in every community, in every part of the country, that the majesty of the law must be upheld at any cost.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.

## The J. B. Parker Fund.

To the Public:—The committee selected by colored citizens at their meeting on the 10th instant beg permission to again call the attention of the public to the heroic action of James Benjamin Parker in his effort to save the life of our lamented late President, William McKinley, over whose remains the last sad rites have been performed, and to ask a renewal of contributions to the fund to be given to this colored hero as a public testimonial of appreciation of his patriotic conduct.

By his prompt and vigorous action he gave expression to the loyal love of the colored people of this country for the Nation's Chief Magistrate, thereby setting an illustrious example to all American youth; and at the same time gave medical science its opportunity to save, if possible, the life of this great man to the Republic.

The committee begs that contributions be sent as heretofore suggested to The Post, The Star, and The Times to be by them transmitted to Mr. Parker. Committee:—William H. H. Hart, William H. Richards, Alexander C. Garner, Mary Church Terrell, Henry E. Baker.

## The Color Prejudice.

Taylor, the black bicycle rider, has redeemed his reputation by defeating the wheel champion of France, and our Gallic friends are crowning his Senegambian brow with garlands. In England and on the continent a dusky skin is no bar to popularity or preferment. The prejudice against color is stronger in the United States than any where else. It is to be hoped it will wear away in time. No matter what the complexion may be, "a man's a man for all that," to Anglicize the Scottish poet's words and give them an application of which he was not thinking.—New York Tribune.

Divorce Granted Dr. C. A. Johnson.

Milwaukee, Wis., Special.—A divorce was granted in the Circuit Court, Milwaukee County, Monday, September 23, 1901 to Dr. Clifton A. Johnson from Marguerite E. Johnson, by Judge Lawrence W. Halsey. The charges in the Doctor's complaint were, cruel and inhuman treatment, intoxication and the frequenting of places of ill-repute for immoral purposes. These charges were sustained by ample proof. Attorney William T. Green appeared for Dr. Johnson. Mrs. Johnson was represented by K. Shawvan, Esq.

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